Delicensing of Milk Sector

174. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to delicense the milk sector in the country; and

(b) if so, what are its likely effects on the dairy development and the consumers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) The items "milk foods" and malted food" which were in the First Schedule of Industries (Development and Regulation) Act have been removed from that list of Industries in respect of which industrial licensing would be compulsory.

(b) The above change in the industrial policy is intended to attract entrepreneurs to set-up milk product enterprises which in turn would give a boost to dairy development in general and make available a wider variety of milk products to the consumers at competitive prices.

Privatisation of Telecom Services in Metropolitan cities

175. SHRI SURESH KALMIADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal for handing over the telecom services to the Private Sector in metropolitan cities in. the country is under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what impact the proposal is likely to have on the telecom services in those cities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION'S (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No proposal for handing over of Telecom Services to private sector in metropolitan cities is under consideration of the Government at present.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise at this stage.

Expansion of sugar projects in the country

176. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued revised guidelines for the licencing of new, and expansion of sugar projects in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the guidelines and their impact on the sugar indusry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) Central Government vide Psess Note dated 8-11-1991 have announced the revised guidelines for licensing of new and expansion of existing sugar factories for the Sugar Year 1991—92 and the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-93—1996-97). The copy of the Press Note is attached as Statement. (See below).

These guidelines have been formulated after considering all the relevant factors and are therefore, not expected to have any adverse impact on the sugar industry.

Statement

Government of India
Ministry of Industry
Department of Industrial Development

PRESS NOTE NO. 16

(1991 Series)

A. The Government of India have reviewed the Guidelines for licensing of new and expansion of existing sugar factories issued vide this Min-

istry's Press Note No. 4 (1990 Series) dated 23-7-1990. In supersession of the aforesaid Press Note, Govern-have formulated the following revised guidelines:

(1) New sugar factories will continue to be licensed for a minimum economic capacity of 2500 tonnes cane crush per day (TCD). There will not be any maximum limit on such capacity. However, in areas specified as industrially backward areas by the Government of India and certified by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to be agro climatically suited for development of sugarcane, licensing of new sugar factories in the co-ope-rative and public sectors would be allowed for an initial capacity of 1750 TCD subject to the condition that the units would expand their capacity to 2500 TCD within a period of 5 years of going into production.

(2) Licences for new sugar fac tories will be issued subject to the condition that the distance between the psoposed new sugar factory and an existing already licensed sugar factory should be 25 kilometers. This distance criterion of 25 Kms. could, however, be relaxed to 15 kilometers in special case where cane availability so justified.

(3) The basic criterion for grant of licences for new sugar units would be their viability, mainly from the point of view of cane availability and potential for deve lopment of sugarcane.

(4) All new licences will be issued with the stipulation that cane price will be payable on the basis of sucrose content of sugar cane.

(5) Other things being equal, preference in licensing will be given to proposals from the Co-operative Sector and the Public Sector, in that order, as compared to the Private Sector. In case more than one application is received from any zone of operation, priority will be given to the application received earlier. However, in such cases also, preference will be given to the Co-operative Sector, followed by the Public Sector and the Private Sector, in that order, even though the applications of the first two sectors may be of a later date.

(6) Priority will continue to be given to sugar factories with capacity less than 2500 TCD to expand to the aforesaid minimum economic capacity.

(7) While granting licences for new units and expansion projects, the additional capacity to be created up to the end of the Eighth Plan, i.e. 1996-97, will be kePt in view.

(8) While granting licences for new sugar factories, industrial lic ences in respect of down-stream units for the use of molasses i.e. industrial alcohal etc. will be given readily.

B. Applications Tor licences will be initially screened by the Screening Committee of the Ministry of Food, while considering such applications, the comments of the State Governments/Union Territory Administration concerned would also be obtained. The State Government/Union Territory Administration would be required to furnish their comments within 3 months of the receipt of communication from the Ministry of Food.

C. Applications for grant of indus trial licences for the establishment of new sugar factories as well as expan'. sion of existing units should be sub mitted directly to the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals in the Depart ment of Industrial Development in Form IL alongwith the prescribed fee of Rs. 2,500/-. A copy of the appli cation may also be sent to Ministry *at* Food.

D. The procedure and guidelines, as given above, are brought to the notice

of the entrepreneurs for their information and guidance.

sales.

Bhavani)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India New Delhi, the 8th November, 1991.

F.No. 10(74) l91-LP

Forwarded to Press Information Bureau for giving vide publicity to the contents of the above Press Note.

Principal Information Officer, Press Information Bureau, New Delhi.

Housing Units in the Country

177. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL; Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 11th November, 1991 to the effect that around 10 million housing units must be built per year to meet the growing demand for housing units by 2000 A.D. in the country:

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto: and

(c) whether Government propose to accord priority to National Capital Region expansion plan by organising workshop for the benefits of plot-holders, builders, contractors, the representatives of the Financial Institutions in collaboration with the National Housing Bank in Delhi during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The working group on Housing set up in the context of formulation of 8th Plan has estimated that the total housing needs in 8th Plan period i.e. 92-97 in terms of numbers will be 21.7 million dwelling-units comprising 13,9 million new construction and 5.8 million upgradation and renovation of unserviceable and old housing stock. The per year requirement on this basis comes to 4.34 million units and not 10 million units.. The Eighth Plan is expected to take care of the housing requirements to the extent of available plan provisions and institutional support.

(c) Proposals for development of various priority towns and counter magnets in NCR have been worked out in the context of 8th Plan in consultation with concerned State Governments and State agencies as well as financial institutions. However, there is no proposal with Government to organise a workshop for this purpose.

Production of Maganese Ore

178. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Maganese Alloy producers have been forced either to cut down production or shut down furnaces due to shortage of high and medium grade maganese ore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons for nonavailability of maganese ore at present and the remedial steps taken by Government so far to ease the situation

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) With the broad-banding of the ferro alloy industry last year, and its delicensing under the new Industrial Policy announced earlier this year, the inter-play of various emerging market forces may have resulted in some producers of ferro alloys facing temporary shortages of manganese ore which could also have been contributed to by inadequate planning and slacks to tako care of short term